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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 017344/0299

In re patent application of:

Motohide OTSUBO

Group Art Unit: 2776

Serial No.: 09/357,841

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: A METHOD OF EDITING STRUCTURED DOCUMENTS



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 2-18 as follows:

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2. A method of editing a plurality of documents each containing a plurality of structured elements, said method comprising the steps of:
- (a) acquiring a plurality of documents to be edited into a document edit system;
 - (b) acquiring an element edit statement into said document edit system, said element edit statement comprising a plurality of edit instructions for searching at least one element in the document;
 - (c) defining an element search portion in the document; and
 - (d) implementing match operations between an element defined in said element edit statement and each of the elements in said element search portion, and ascertaining an element which matches the element defined in said element edit statement, the matched element being extracted if the matched element is indicated as being extracted, the extracted element being stored in an edit result storage, and said match operations being repeated until completing all the edit instructions in the element edit statement.